

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A device for treating a disease of a heart, the device comprising: a jacket adapted to be secured to said heart and said jacket is dimensioned so as to conform to an external geometry of said heart to constrain circumferential expansion of said heart during diastole and permit substantially unimpeded contraction of said heart during systole,

wherein said jacket comprises a plurality of flexible elongated members interconnected to form a jacket material, wherein said elongated members are metal, and wherein said jacket is expandable.

19. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 34, wherein said metal alloy is stainless steel.

20. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein said elongated members are interwoven to form a knit material.

21. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein said jacket has a first axis and a second axis with said jacket inclined to stretch in a direction of said first axis by a different amount than in a direction of said second axis in response to a given force.

22. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein said jacket is configured to constrain at least a lower portion of the heart.

23. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein said jacket is dimensioned to circumferentially surround said heart.

24. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein at least one of said elongated members comprises a plurality of fibers.
25. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein said elongated members define a plurality of open areas between opposing elongated members.
26. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18 further comprising a lining.
27. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18 further wherein said lining is an anti-fibrosis lining.
28. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18 further comprising a coating on said elongated members.
29. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 28 wherein said coating is an anti-fibrosis coating.
30. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 28 wherein said jacket is sized to cover and surround a valvular annulus of said heart.
31. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 28 wherein said jacket is sized to cover and surround the ventricles of said heart.
32. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 28 wherein said jacket is sized to cover and surround the atria of said heart.
33. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18 wherein said elongated members include bends adapted to at least partially straighten as said jacket expands.

34. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein said metal is a metal alloy.
35. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein said jacket is collapsible for placement through a minimally invasive surgical instrument.
36. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein said jacket has an open apex.
37. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein said jacket has a closed apex.
38. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18 wherein said jacket is adapted to constrain said heart from expanding beyond a maximum volume.
39. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a disease of a heart, the method comprising:
 - (a) selecting a jacket adapted to conform to an external geometry of said heart to constrain circumferential expansion of said heart during diastole and permit substantially unimpeded contraction of said heart during systole, and wherein said jacket includes elongated members, wherein said elongated members are metal, and wherein said elongated members are interconnected for said jacket to be expandable;
 - (b) placing said jacket on a heart of a patient with said jacket surrounding at least the ventricles of said heart to constrain circumferential expansion of said heart during diastole and permit substantially unimpeded contraction of said heart during systole.
40. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein said metal is metal alloy.

41. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 39-40, wherein said metal alloy is stainless steel.
42. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein said jacket is placed over an epicardial surface of said heart.
43. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 39, wherein said jacket is placed over a pericardium of said heart.
44. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39 further comprising placing said jacket on said heart with a snugness selected to avoid impairment of cardiac function.
45. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 44 further comprising placing said jacket on said heart with a snugness selected to avoid substantial resistance to diastolic filling of said heart.
46. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39 wherein said jacket is delivered minimally invasively to said heart by collapsing said jacket into a hollow minimally invasive surgical tool.
47. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein said jacket is placed surrounding a valvular annulus of said heart.
48. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein said jacket is placed surrounding ventricles of said heart.
49. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein said jacket is placed surrounding atria of said heart.
50. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein said elongated members include bends, said bends at least partially straighten as said jacket expands.

51. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39 further comprising affixing said jacket to said heart at a plurality of locations.
52. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39 wherein said jacket is placed on said heart with a snugness selected to constrain said heart from expanding beyond a maximum volume.